Quick Look

Cisco CSS 11500 Series
Content Services Switch

The Cisco CSS 11500 Series Content Services Switch is the newest addition to the Cisco content switching product line. As with other Cisco content switches, the midrange Cisco CSS 11500 is suitable for both enterprises and service providers seeking to reduce data center costs, boost e-business application performance, offer enhanced services, ensure online transaction integrity, and provide the best possible online experience for customers, business partners, and internal workers.

The Cisco CSS 11500 is available in two models-the three-slot Cisco CSS 11503 and the six-slot Cisco CSS 11506. Both systems take advantage of the same high-performance, modular architecture and use the same set of I/O, Secure Sockets Layer (SSL), and session accelerator modules. Also, both systems operate with the same WebNS software, enabling the Cisco CSS 11503 and 11506 to offer industry-leading content switching functionality within a compact, modular hardware platform. Table 1 gives details of the Cisco Content Switching product line.

Table 1 Cisco Content Switching Product Line

Decision points	Cisco CSS 11050	Cisco CSS 11503	Cisco CSS 11506	Cisco CSM for Catalyst 6500
Form factor	Standalone appliance	Standalone, Modular	Standalone, Modular	Integrated module
Site activity/intensity	Low	Medium	High	Highest
Port density (FE/GE)	8/1	32/6	80/12	336/112
Hardware scalability	Low	Medium	High	Highest
System redundancy	No	No	Yes	Yes
Session redundancy	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Layer 2/3 networking	★	★	★	★ ★ ★
Management options	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★
SSL[1] acceleration	External	Internal	Internal	External
Load balancing	Servers, caches, firewalls	Servers, caches, firewalls	Servers, caches, firewalls	Servers, caches, firewalls, VPNs[2]

[1]Secure Sockets Layer
[2]Virtual private networks

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Cisco CSS 11500 Features and Customer Benefits

Table 2 gives features and benefits of the Cisco CSS 11500.

Table 2 Features and Benefits of Cisco CSS 11500

Features	Customer benefits
• Compact chassis design	• Saves space in racks • Greater port density per rack unit
• Modular system architecture	• Build to suit needs now • Add modules as needs change
• Performance-boosting session accelerator and intelligent I/O modules	• System scales by adding modules • Readily meets intensifying traffic volumes or transaction requirements
• Adaptive session redundancy—A new standard in stateful failover	• Provides automated recovery for active user sessions during times of system failures • Ensures the completion of e-business transactions and user satisfaction
• System redundancy in Cisco CSS 11506	• Ensures e-business continuity • Protects against hardware failures by offering redundant switch control modules, switching fabrics, and power supplies
• Integrated SSL acceleration	• Boosts SSL secured transaction performance • Offloads demanding SSL processing from servers • Provides for high-end SSL session processing
• Range of connectivity options	• Configure as an appliance with minimal network connectivity or provide for high port densities via multiple I/O modules • Gigabit and Fast Ethernet support
• Robust content switching services via WebNS support	• Comprehensive set of services designed to meet the needs of Web sites and e-business systems now-and into the future; examples include server, cache, and firewall load balancing; global and local load balancing; advanced denial-of-service (DoS) protection; Flash crowd protection; reverse proxy caching; mobile content delivery; and sophisticated, yet straightforward management and control systems

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Cisco CSS 11500 Series Content Services Switch: Two Models, Shared Modules

Table 3 provides an overview of the Cisco CSS 11500 Series hardware.

Table 3 Cisco CSS 11500 Series hardware overview

Cisco CSS 11500 Series Content Services Switches: • Cisco CSS 11503—Offers three slots, occupies two rack units, provides for 20-Gbps aggregate throughput • Cisco CSS 11506—Offers six slots, occupies five rack units, provides for 40-Gpbs aggregate throughput	
Switch control Module (SCM) • Governs the system and contributes to I/O density and flow performance • Offers two Gigabit Ethernet ports with small form-factor GBICs[1] (1000BASE-SX or 1000BASE-LX) • Managed through the Cisco SCM console or Ethernet management port • Supports two PC Card slots that hold up to two 256-MB Flash disks or up to two 512-MB hard disks—or one of each • Cisco CSS 11506 requires at least one Cisco SCM and can be configured with a second in standby mode; Cisco CSS 11503 requires one Cisco SCM	**SSL Module** • Offers ideal solution for handling today's intensifying SSL performance requirements • Offloads SSL processing from servers • Simplifies SSL-related management • Occupies single slot in Cisco CSS 11503 and 11506 • Multiple SSL modules allowed per chassis—maximum determined by slot availability • Utilizes state-of-the-art SSL chips • Sustains up to 1000 SSL handshakes per second • Decrypts RC4 at 250 Mbps
I/O modules Three types of I/O modules deliver both port density and flow performance improvements to the Cisco CSS 11500: • Two-port Gigabit Ethernet—Small form-factor GBICs (1000BASE-SX or 1000 BASE-LX) • Sixteen-port Fast Ethernet—Standard RJ-45 connectors • Eight-port Fast Ethernet—Standard RJ-45 connectors	**Session accelerator module** • Provides the performance boost that is offered in I/O modules—without the extra cost and complexity of network ports • Offers cost-effective way to add flow performance when additional connectivity is not required • Provides the flexibility to optimize the system for port density and performance using the same flow setup and forwarding processors as the I/O modules

[1]Gigabit interface converters

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Target Applications and Customers

Table 4 describes the target customers and applications for the Cisco CSS 11500 Series.

Table 4 Cisco CSS 11500 Series; target applications and customers

Key enterprise applications • High-availability, secure, and scalable Web sites and e-business applications • Internet sites with online secure transactions (B2C[1] e-commerce, online account access...) • Intranet/extranet applications – Customer care, sales force automation, purchasing, order processing, supply chain management, product support, B2B[2] e-commerce • Mobile content delivery to employees, business partners, and customers • Disaster recovery	**Enterprise verticals** • Financial services • Retail • Insurance • Medical/health services • Government agencies—federal and state • Transportation • Manufacturing
Key service provider applications • Colocation hosting • Shared and dedicated hosting • Managed application services • Content delivery services • Mobile data services • Network acceleration • Disaster recovery	**Service providers** • Hosting service providers • Application service providers • Wireless service providers • Broadband access providers • CDN[3] providers • Disaster recovery firms

[1]Business to consumer
[2]Business to business
[3]Content delivery network

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Feature/Application Matrix—Cisco CSS 11500 Series in Action

Following are some of the key Cisco CSS 11500 Series features in action in specific situations. Note that many features are applied across all three sample environments.

Table 5 Cisco CSS 11500 in Action

Sample application environment	Key Cisco CSS 11500 feature applied
Internet—Business to consumer e-commerce, online customer care	• Advanced server load balancing • User prioritization • E-transaction assurance • Adaptive session redundancy—Stateful failover • SSL acceleration via high-performance SSL module • DoS protection
Intranet—Workforce optimization, sales automation, customer service, employee portals...	• Firewall load balancing • Best-server traffic direction • Mobile request handling • Content and transaction prioritization • Content acceleration using Web-site caches
Extranet—Business to business e-commerce, supply chain automation, sales/service channel interaction...	• Global server load balancing • Access control • Flash crowd protection • Session acceleration module to boost performance

Customer ROI—Key Messages for Stakeholders

When selling the Cisco CSS 11500 Series, different decision-makers will bring unique perspectives to the evaluation. Table 6 outlines areas of return on investment (ROI) that will resonate best with these different stakeholders.

Table 6 ROI Summary

Stakeholder	Highlight rewards
Network manager	• Reduces operating costs and complexity • Offers scalable network security and performance • Saves WAN bandwidth via GSLB[1] • Offers modular upgrades as needs change • Offers hardware redundancy, delivering high availability
Data center manager, server or Web-site administrator...	• Ensures site and online transaction integrity • Delivers high-performance SSL applications • Controls server expenses and staff burden • Delivers mobile content and custom online services • Readily supports new users, applications, services
CXO, business manager, e-business executive, VP sales...	• Provides for best possible user online experience • Improves customer/partner interactions • Boosts worker productivity and effectiveness • Enables business continuity upon failures/overloads • Offers easy provisioning of new applications and services

[1]Global Server Load Balancing

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Cisco CSS 11500 Series Specifications

Table 7 gives specifications of the Cisco CSS 1150 Series.

Table 7 Cisco CSS 11500 Series Specifications

	Number of Cisco CSS 11503	Cisco CSS 11506
Number of modular slots	3	6
Base configuration	Switch control module 2 Gigabit Ethernet (GBIC) ports	Switch control module 2 Gigabit Ethernet (GBIC) ports
Maximum Gigabit Ethernet ports	6	12
Maximum 10/100 Ethernet ports	32	80
Two-port Gigabit Ethernet I/O module	Maximum of 2	Maximum of 5
Sixteen-port 10/100 Ethernet I/O module	Maximum of 2	Maximum of 5
Eight-port 10/100 Ethernet I/O module	Maximum of 2	Maximum of 5
SSL module	Maximum of 2	Maximum of 5
Session accelerator module	Maximum of 2	Maximum of 5
Redundancy features	Active-active Layer 5 Adaptive session redundancy VIP[1] redundancy	Active-active Layer 5 Adaptive session redundancy VIP redundancy Active-standby switch control Redundant switching fabric Redundant power
Switching bandwidth	Aggregate 20 Gbps	Aggregate 40 Gbps
Storage —up to 2 per SCM	512-MB hard disk or 256-MB Flash disk	512-MB hard disk or 256-MB Flash disk
System software	WebNS 5.1 or later	WebNS 5.1 or later
Maximum concurrent connections	400,000	1,000,000
Maximum supported keepalives	512	512
Maximum number of VLANs[2]	512	512
Height	3.5 in. (2 rack units)	8.75 in. (5 rack units)
Power	Integrated AC or DC supply	Up to 3 AC or 3 DC supplies

[1]Virtual IP Address
[2]Virtual LANs

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Ordering Information

Table 8 gives ordering information for the Cisco CSS 11500 Series.

Table 8 Ordering Information for Cisco CSS 11500 Series

Product number	Description
CSS11506-2AC	Cisco CSS 11506 Content Services Switch-SCM, 2 Gigabit Ethernet, hard disk, 2 SM, 2 AC, fan
CSS11506-2DC	Cisco CSS 11506 Content Services Switch-SCM, 2 Gigabit Ethernet, hard disk, 2 SM, 2 DC, fan
CSS11503-AC	Cisco CSS 11503 Content Services Switch-SCM, 2 Gigabit Ethernet, hard disk, AC
CSS11503-DC	Cisco CSS 11503 Content Services Switch-SCM, 2 Gigabit Ethernet, hard disk, DC
CSS5-SCM-2GE	Cisco CSS 11500 System Control Module, 2 Gigabit Ethernet, hard disk
CSS5-IOM-8FE	Cisco CSS 11500 Fast Ethernet I/O Module: 8-port TX
CSS5-IOM-16FE	Cisco CSS 11500 Fast Ethernet I/O Module: 16-port TX
CSS5-IOM-2GE	Cisco CSS 11500 Gigabit Ethernet I/O Module: 2-port (requires SFP GBICS)
CSS5-SAM	Cisco CSS 11500 Session Accelerator Module
CSS5-SSL	Cisco CSS 11500 SSL Module

Web Resources

Ordering: Cisco CSS 11500 Series:

http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/pcat/11000.htm - order

Product information: Cisco CSS 11500 Series:

http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/pcat/11000.htm or

http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/cc/pd/si/11000/

Cisco Content Switching Sales Guide:

http://www.cisco.com/warp/partner/synchronicd/cc/pd/si/11000/prodlit/css11_st.pdf

Content networking specialization for Cisco channel partners:

For more information on the Content Networking Specialization program, visit:

http://www.cisco.com/warp/customer/765/partner_programs/specialization/contentnetworking/

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